

# Brooklyn Museum

## Press Release

March 2018

### The Brooklyn Museum Appoints Two New Curators

The Brooklyn Museum is excited to announce two new curatorial appointments. **Kristen Windmuller-Luna** has been appointed the Sills Family Consulting Curator, African Art, and **Drew Sawyer** has been appointed the Phillip Leonian and Edith Rosenbaum Leonian Curator of Photography. The two new curators will begin in April.

“We are thrilled to welcome Drew and Kristen to our fantastic curatorial team during this period of great momentum as we expand exhibitions, public programs, and educational reach,” said Anne Pasternak, Shelby White and Leon Levy Director.

Windmuller-Luna will assess and rethink the Brooklyn Museum’s extensive holdings of African art, which is comprised of more than 6,000 objects, and organize an innovative, freshly conceived temporary installation showcasing the breadth and depth of the collection. Working with the curatorial team, she will focus on creating a visual dialogue between the African art collection and other significant works within the Museum’s holdings. She will also help develop dynamic opportunities for educational programming.

Sawyer will lead efforts to reimagine the role of photography within the Museum, overseeing the care, stewardship, and refinement of the collection. He will also conceptualize the photography collection and loan exhibitions and will collaborate with other Museum



Drew Sawyer. (Photo: Luke Stettner)



Kristen Windmuller-Luna. (Photo: Emile Askey)

curators on the integration of photography with other collection galleries and exhibitions.

Larry and Susan Sills stated, “Dr. Windmuller-Luna is a fine fit for this position. We look forward to witnessing the creative ways she will approach the study and display of the Brooklyn Museum’s renowned African art collection.”

Jennifer Chi, Deputy Director and Chief Curator, added, “Kristen is the perfect choice to build upon the Brooklyn Museum’s track record as an innovator in the collection and exhibition of the arts of Africa. Her vision for a new permanent collection installation that transforms how viewers relate to the arts of Africa is tremendously exciting for us as we near the 100th anniversary of the Brooklyn Museum’s pioneering exhibition of African art in 1923.”

Regarding Sawyer’s appointment, Jacques Aaron Preis, Trustee, Phillip Leonian and Edith Rosenbaum Leonian Charitable Trust, remarked, “We are thrilled that Dr. Sawyer will be the Phillip Leonian and Edith Rosenbaum Leonian Curator of Photography at the Brooklyn Museum. We look forward to an expanded presence of photography at the Museum in the years to come, in the presentation of special exhibitions and the Museum’s permanent collection of over 18,000 works.”

Jennifer Chi added, “Drew’s curatorial and scholarly vision will be a significant contribution to our curatorial team. His deep expertise in social and experimental documentary practices during the twentieth and twenty-first centuries will significantly augment our strong collection and will contribute to our history of championing contemporary artists who continue in this vein. His openness to collaboratively rethinking how museums and curators typically interpret or present art will be essential for us at this important juncture.”

**Kristen Windmuller-Luna** is a curator and historian of African arts and architecture, with a specialization in the early modern period and Christian Ethiopia. Her object-centered curating counters myths about African civilizations and artistic production by focusing on cultural specificity, artistic diversity, and global historical context. Windmuller-Luna received her Ph.D. and M.A. in Art and Archaeology from Princeton University and her B.A. in the History of Art from Yale University. Presently she is a lecturer in the Department of Art History and Archaeology at Columbia University. She recently held the position of Mellon Collections Research Specialist (African Arts) at the Princeton University Art Museum, where she curated the 2018 installation *Changing the Conversation: African Interventions*. Previously, she worked at several art museums, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Princeton University Art Museum, Neuberger Museum of Art, and Renee and Chaim Gross Foundation. She is a member of the Arts Council of the African Studies Association (ACASA) and the Association of Art Museum Curators.

**Drew Sawyer** is currently Head of Exhibitions and the William J. and Sarah Ross Soter Associate Curator of Photography at the Columbus Museum of Art in Ohio. His most recent exhibition, *Family Pictures*, explored the legacy of Roy DeCarava’s 1955 book *The Sweet Flypaper of Life*, and comprised works by John Edmonds, LaToya Ruby Frazier, Lyle Ashton Harris, Deana Lawson, Lorraine O’Grady, Gordon Parks, Sondra Perry, Ming Smith, and Carrie Mae Weems. At Columbus, he also organized solo exhibitions of the work of Lucy Raven and Allan Sekula, as well as several large-scale thematic exhibitions, including *The Sun Placed in the Abyss* and *Red Horizon: Contemporary Art and Photography in the USSR and Russia, 1960 to 2010*. He is a co-organizer of the upcoming historical survey, *Art after Stonewall, 1969 to 1989*, which will tour during the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in 2019. From 2012 to 2015, Sawyer served as the Beaumont and Nancy Newhall Curatorial Fellow at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Sawyer holds a Ph.D. in Art History and Archaeology from Columbia University, specializing in North American art and visual culture of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Admission:**

Contribution: \$16; students with valid I.D. and seniors \$10. Ages 19 and under FREE. Also FREE first Saturday of the month (except September), 5–11 pm, and Thursdays, 5–10 pm. Group tours or visits must be arranged in advance by calling 718.501.6234.

Programs are subject to change without notice. For more information, visit [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org).

### **Directions:**

Subway: 2 or 3 to Eastern Parkway/Brooklyn Museum; 4 or 5 to Franklin Avenue; B or Q to Prospect Park; S to Botanic Garden. Bus: B41, B69, B48, B45. On-site parking available.

### **Museum Hours:**

Wednesdays and Fridays, 11 am to 6 pm; Thursdays, 11 am to 10 pm; Saturdays and Sundays, 11 am to 6 pm; first Saturday of each month (except September), 11 am to 11 pm. Closed Mondays, Tuesdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.